Mr. Speaker, yesterday the biggest news story concerned a

car bombing in Baghdad which killed 13 people. Almost all major news

outlets reported that immediately following this bombing there was a

large anti-American demonstration by Iraqi citizens. They somehow were

blaming the bombing on the U.S. and they burned an American flag.

A few weeks ago, just before the release of the Iraqi prison

pictures, CNN released a poll of 3,000 Iraqis. That poll found that

only 19 percent of the people of Iraq view us as liberators, while more

than 70 percent viewed us as occupiers.

CNN found that 78 percent of Iraqis had an unfavorable view of the

U.S.

Even worse, at about that same time in another poll taken before the

release the prison pictures, the survey found that 82 percent of Iraqis

had an unfavorable view of the U.S. This poll was taken by the

Coalition Provisional Authority, our own government. In other words,

our own poll. It said 82 percent of Iraqis had a bad opinion of the

U.S.

This is a country, Mr. Speaker, where we have spent almost $200

billion in the last couple of years. This is a country for which we

have done more than any other country has done for another nation in

the entire history of the world.

When I led a delegation to Iraq at the end of January, we were

proudly told by one general he would have 110,000 Iraqis working for

him, or, more accurately, for our taxpayers by July 1, and he

controlled only about one-eighth of the population there. Apparently

the only Iraqis who have a favorable view of the U.S. are the ones we

have working for us.

These people do not appreciate what we have done and are doing for

them, and because we have such a huge national debt and such a huge

deficit we are borrowing all these billions we are spending there. Some

try to say that only a small portion, about $20 billion, is being spent

to rebuild Iraq. This is false, or at least very misleading.

Most of what the military is doing there, building roads, bridges,

schools, setting up free health care clinics, fixing airports and

telephone and power and water systems, would be called foreign aid in

any other country. In fact, our operation in Iraq is the most massive

foreign aid program in history.

Saddam Hussein was an evil man, but his total military budget was

just two-tenths of 1 percent of ours. He was no real threat to us.

Harlan Ullman, a columnist for the Washington Times, who started out

favoring this war, wrote a few days ago: ``Compared to Hitler and the

might of the Third Reich, Saddam was a relatively minor villain. The

original reasons for war; namely, weapons of mass destruction and links

to al Qaeda, have drifted out of sight.''

Anyone who says it is isolationist to oppose this war is resorting to

childish name-calling, rather than a mature discussion of the issue on

its merits, or lack thereof.

We should be friends with all nations and help out, in fact lead the

way, during humanitarian crises, but we should not get involved in

every political, ethnic or religious dispute around the world. This

just creates more enemies for us and makes terrorism more likely.

We need to follow a foreign policy of enlightened neutrality that

relies on war only as a last resort when there is no other reasonable

alternative.

At the first of last week, the Chicago Tribune had a story about a

young soldier who had just been killed in Iraq. Just a few days earlier

he had called his mother and told her,

When our handover of sovereignty comes on June 30, we should make

this a real handover, not just in name only. Deputy Defense Secretary

Paul Wolfowitz, the main architect of the war, told the Committee on

Armed Services a few months ago we would be in Iraq for 10 years.

I hope not.

Some big companies and some military leaders want us to stay there

that long because it means more money for them, but this decision

should not be dictated by money. We should declare victory, Mr.

Speaker, and begin a phased, orderly withdrawal. We should slowly bring

our boys and girls home. We should all hope and pray that no more are

killed or maimed for life.

This should not be our war.

Columnist Georgie Ann Geyer wrote recently:

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing conservative about this war in Iraq. We

need to start putting our own people first once again and turn Iraq

back over to the Iraqis.